

REMARKS

This Reply and Amendment is intended to be completely responsive to the non-final Office Action. Claims 1-65 are pending in this Application and Claims 1-42 and 44-65 currently stand rejected. Independent Claims 1, 20 and 40 have been amended to recite subject matter that the Applicants believe is allowable and overcomes the rejections. Dependent Claims 17, 22, 23, 30, 36, 44 and 56-58 have been amended for clarity and consistency. New independent Claim 66 and dependent Claims 67-70 have been added to provide claims of varying scope.

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present Application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Allowable Subject Matter

In Section 6 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner stated that "Claim 43 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants have added new independent Claim 66 to recite the subject matter of dependent Claim 43 and (its base) independent Claim 40. Dependent Claims 67-70 have been added to provide claims of varying scope.

The Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in any proper combination, disclose the combination of subject matter (taken as a whole) recited in independent Claim 66. Dependent Claims 67-70 depend from independent Claim 66. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of independent Claim 66 and dependent Claims 67-70, as they depend from Claim 66.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2

In Sections 1-3 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected dependent Claim 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite because “it is not clear what Applicant means by the phrase ‘wherein the adhesive wherein the composite member is needle-punched.’”

The Applicants have amended dependent Claim 58 for clarity to recite “wherein the composite member is needle-punched.”

The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 and reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claim 58 (as amended).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In Sections 4-5 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-42 and 44-65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 2,126,756 issued to Dreyfus (“Dreyfus”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,147,490 issued to Allen et al. (“Allen et al.”).

The Applicants respectfully submit that Dreyfus is directed to stiffened, laminated fabrics (cuffs, collars, etc.) and discloses a stiffener (powdered cellulose acetate) that is mixed with water and a water-soluble adhesive to form a suspension that is applied to an intermediate cotton layer of the assembly; the adhesive adheres the stiffener to the cotton layer; the water is evaporated out; and the assembly is wetted with a volatile liquid (e.g. aqueous solution of 80% ethyl alcohol) that stiffens the cellulose acetate at high temperatures; the wetted assembly is pressed with a hot iron to permanently stiffen the assembly to form an assembly that retains its stiffness after repeated laundering.

Dreyfus does not disclose, teach or suggest an adhesive that forms a bond that is removable after the layers are attached with connectors (to form a soft and flexible quilt).

The Applicants respectfully submit that Allen et al. is directed to reversible garments such as a reversible jacket and discloses that the body and collar of the jacket contains an internal padding material such as cotton batting between two cloth layers.

Allen et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest an adhesive that forms a bond that is removable after attachment of the layers with connectors (to form a soft and flexible quilt).

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 is in independent form. Dependent Claims 2-19 depend from independent Claim 1. Claim 1 (as amended) recites a “product including a batting of a type having opposing faces and a softness and flexibility and configured for use in the formation of a quilt” comprising, in combination with other elements, an “adhesive material [that] is water soluble and effective to provide a bond to secure the cover to the batting during formation of the quilt so that the bond is removable after formation of the quilt by washing the quilt.”

The “product including a batting of a type having opposing faces and a softness and flexibility and configured for use in the formation of a quilt” including (among others) an “adhesive material [that] is water soluble and effective to provide a bond to secure the cover to the batting during formation of the quilt so that the bond is removable after formation of the quilt by washing the quilt” of Claim 1 (as amended) is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Dreyfus alone or in any proper combination with Allen et al. Further, to transform the “stiffened composite” of Dreyfus, alone or in any proper combination with the “reversible garment” of Allen et al. would require still further modification, and such modification is taught only by the Applicants’ own disclosure.

The Applicants also submit that there is no motivation to combine the “stiffened composite” of Dreyfus, which is characterized by a “desired degree of stiffness which is relatively permanent, so that they may be subjected to repeated laundering without substantially losing their stiffness” (col. 1, lines 40-43), alone or in any proper combination with the “reversible garment” of Allen et al., which is sufficiently soft so that it “may be rolled or folded” (col. 1, line 12).

The subject matter recited in independent Claim 1 (as amended), considered as a whole, would not have been obvious based on Dreyfus in view of Allen et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, and reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 1 (as amended) and dependent Claims 2-19, as they depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended) (35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 4).

Independent Claim 20

Claim 20 is in independent form. Dependent Claims 21-39 depend from independent Claim 20. Claim 20 (as amended) recites a “product including a batting of a type having ... a softness and flexibility and configured for use in the formation of a quilt” comprising, in combination with other elements, an “adhesive material configured to form a bond” so that a “cover can be secured to the batting with the bond formed by the adhesive material before the cover is attached to the batting by spaced apart connectors and the bond can be removed by washing the quilt after the cover is attached to the batting with the connectors.”

The “product including a batting of a type having ... a softness and flexibility and configured for use in the formation of a quilt” including (among others) an “adhesive material configured to form a bond” so that a “cover can be secured to the batting with the bond formed by the adhesive material before the cover is attached to the batting by spaced apart connectors and the bond can be removed by washing the quilt after the cover is attached to the batting with the connectors” of Claim 20 (as amended) is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Dreyfus alone or in any proper combination with Allen et al. Further, to transform the “stiffened composite” of Dreyfus, alone or in any proper combination with the “reversible garment” of Allen et al. would require still further modification, and such modification is taught only by the Applicants’ own disclosure.

The Applicants also submit that there is no motivation to combine the “stiffened composite” of Dreyfus, which is characterized by a “desired degree of stiffness which is relatively permanent, so that they may be subjected to repeated laundering without substantially losing their stiffness” (col. 1, lines 40-43), alone or in any proper combination with the “reversible garment” of Allen et al., which is sufficiently soft so that it “may be rolled or folded” (col. 1, line 12).

The subject matter recited in independent Claim 20 (as amended), considered as a whole, would not have been obvious based on Dreyfus in view of Allen et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, and reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 20 (as amended) and dependent Claims 21-39, as they depend from independent Claim 20 (as amended) (35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 4).

Independent Claim 40

Claim 40 is in independent form. Dependent Claims 41-65 depend from independent Claim 40. Claim 40 (as amended) recites a “product ... having a batting with a softness and flexibility and configured for use in the formation of a quilt” comprising, in combination with other elements, an “adhesive material effective to form a removable bond at the opposing faces of the batting” so that “the quilt may be formed by at least temporary attachment of the cover to the batting by the bond and the bond is removable by washing the quilt after formation of the quilt.”

The “product ... having a batting with a softness and flexibility and configured for use in the formation of a quilt” including (among others) an “adhesive material effective to form a removable bond at the opposing faces of the batting” so that “the quilt may be formed by at least temporary attachment of the cover to the batting by the bond and the bond is removable by washing the quilt after formation of the quilt” of Claim 40 (as amended) is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Dreyfus alone or in any proper combination with Allen et al. Further, to transform the “stiffened composite” of Dreyfus, alone or in any proper combination with the “reversible garment” of Allen et al. would require still further modification, and such modification is taught only by the Applicants’ own disclosure.

The Applicants also submit that there is no motivation to combine the “stiffened composite” of Dreyfus, which is characterized by a “desired degree of stiffness which is relatively permanent, so that they may be subjected to repeated laundering without substantially losing their stiffness” (col. 1, lines 40-43), alone or in any proper combination with the “reversible garment” of Allen et al., which is sufficiently soft so that it “may be rolled or folded” (col. 1, line 12).

The subject matter recited in independent Claim 40 (as amended), considered as a whole, would not have been obvious based on Dreyfus in view of Allen et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, and reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 40 (as amended) and dependent Claims 41-65, as they depend from independent Claim 40 (as amended) (35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 4).

* * *

The Applicants believe that each outstanding rejection to the pending claims has been overcome, and the Application is in condition for allowance. Independent Claims 1, 20 and 40 have been amended, and new Claims 66-70 have been added to provide claims of varying scope. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending Claims 1-70.

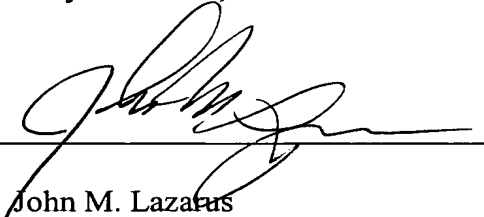
The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview or Examiner’s amendment would advance the prosecution of the Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/27/2006

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 26371
Telephone: (414) 297-5591
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

John M. Lazarus
Attorney for the Applicants
Registration No. 48,367